

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 presently are pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

By this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c), Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 11 to further clarify the invention and also has added new dependent claims 21 and 22. As Applicant has requested that the previous Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on March 13, 2006 be entered, the remarks submitted together with that Amendment are hereby incorporated by reference.

Moreover, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite an arc-shaped door 50 slidably disposed within the case and which is operative to block an opening 20 for pulling out the recording tape (see, for example, Fig. 2). Further, new dependent claims 21 and 22 have been added to depend from independent claims 1 and 11, respectively, and further emphasize that the peripheral wall having a border portion 60 between the peripheral wall and the floor plate comprises a wall 12B adjacent to which the arc-shaped door 50 is slidably disposed.

Quite clearly, neither LeNoue nor Maehara teaches or suggests such an arc-shaped slidable door. Rather, LeNoue discloses a leader block as a closing member.

In contradistinction, in the present invention, the arc-shaped door 50 is used, and the peripheral wall adjacent to which the arc-shaped door is slidably disposed includes the border portion 60 which is thinner than a thickness of the peripheral wall. With such a construction, it is possible to prevent problems in the opening and closing operations of the door (see, for example, page 5, lines 5-21 as well as page 23, line 1 - page 24, line 11).

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No. 10/699,799

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

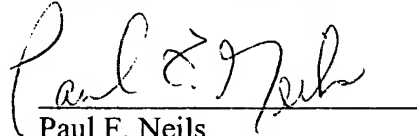
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Neils", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul F. Neils
Registration No. 33,102

Date: April 28, 2006

Attorney Docket No.: Q77992